

CHAPTER IV.

AFTER THE ARMISTICE.

BIVOUAC ON BATTLEFIELD—175 MILE HIKE.

Immediately after hostilities ceased the American lines were consolidated. The companies bivouacked that night on the battlefield at the spot they had reached when firing ceased at 11 a. m.

The night of November 11 stands out unique in the history of mankind. It was the most memorable night since the dawn of the Christian era. It is hardly possible that man will ever again witness an event of more transcendent importance and significance to the entire world than the cessation of hostilities on November 11. That night the bright light of our camp fires dispelled the dreary darkness that had settled like a pall upon northern France every night with the going down of the sun for four long years. Before the night of the 11th, the faint light of a cigarette was the signal for a deadly missile. That night the fields and woods were aglow with bright fires—the signals of peace and victory. The merry laughter and bright, happy faces of the fellows as they sat